

**AGENDA**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**October 27, 2015**  
**Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Reserve**  
**2310 IN-364, Winslow, IN 47598**

**Members in Attendance:**

Scott Ham  
Bob Eddleman  
Nola Gentry  
Ray Chattin  
Robert Woodling  
Warren Baird  
Larry Clemens

**Others in Attendance:**

Jordan Seger, ISDA  
Leah Harmon, ISDA  
Laura Fribley, ISDA  
Nathan Stoelting, ISDA  
Meg Leader, ISDA  
Jim Woody, ISDA  
Linda Powell, ISDA  
Don Ryan, ISDA  
Andrea Gogel, ISDA  
Scheryl Vaughn, Boone SWCD  
Susan King, Warrick SWCD  
Tracey Johnson, Knox SWCD  
Jeri Ziliak, Posey SWCD  
Erica Burkemper-Fisher, Pike SWCD  
Erin Shoup, Vanderburgh SWCD  
Dave King, Spencer SWCD

Ann Ice, Gibson SWCD  
Theresa Harder, Martin SWCD  
Brian Rahman, Spencer SWCD  
Courtney Hall, Spencer SWCD  
Darlene Fischer, Perry SWCD  
Dan Hovland, NRCS  
Judi Brown, Dubois SWCD  
Mike Roos, Spencer SWCD  
Tabitha Anthis, Gibson SWCD  
Lisa Holscher, IASWCD/CCSI  
Walt Sell, Purdue Extension  
Carrie Parmenter, Posey SWCD  
Sharon Baird  
Cress Hizer, IASWCD  
Troy Hinkle, Knox SWCD

**I. Meeting Called to Order: 9:34 AM**

**II. Approval of Minutes of September 2015**

Mr. Eddleman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Baird seconded the motion.  
All in favor, motion passed.

**III. Clean Water Indiana**

**a. Clean Water Indiana Grants –Leah Harmon**

Applications were due October 1<sup>st</sup>. The DSS team will develop and send a survey in the coming weeks. We are looking to improve the process for next year. Reimbursement applications are due December 15<sup>th</sup> for the next review cycle. Leah and Jennifer Thum are working on updating the AFR guide. It will be complete by the December 17<sup>th</sup> financial training.

**a. Grants Committee Report- Robert Woodling**

\$965,500 funded. Mr. Woodling was impressed with time and effort districts put into applications. A few applications were disqualified because of District Deadline Verification Tools. One was ineligible because it was a research project. The grants

committee recommended funding of 14 proposals. Jordan pointed out maps in the packets.

Ms. Gentry liked the spread of applications throughout the state.

Mr. Clemens questioned the overlapping Marshall and St. Joseph grants. Leah clarified that St. Joseph's proposal was more traditionally agriculture focused, where Marshall's was focused on rain gardens.

Jordan clarified that the committee did allow single district proposals this year and Elkhart was recommended to be funded.

Mr. Clemens would like to see a summary of the funded applications. Leah will complete this in the near future. A press release will be drafted and sent within the next few weeks.

Mr. Clemens would like to see an extra column added to maps for match presented. How districts are leveraging match. ISDA will highlight on press release and supporting documents.

The board requested that DSS needs to have a conversation with the district who proposed the research project. DSS will follow up on discussion.

Mr. Woodling wants to emphasize that the focus is still on partnerships.

Jordan asked about timeline. Leah indicated that contracts will probably be out by Thanksgiving.

Ms. Gentry moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Mr. Eddleman seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

**b. Clean Water Indiana Budget Update- Jordan Seger**

The CWI grants budget is not quite as much as last year. We started the year \$50,000 short and the board had already approved \$25,000 for CCSI. ISDA is looking at one round of grants for this year and increase going forward because of the non-reverting funds. The budget is revenue dependent. The short legislative session this year does not include a budget. If cigarette taxes are increased, you would see a little bump in the short term but no real steady increase.

Ms. Gentry talked to a senator about e cigarettes. Kids are using them now. \$10 million in revenue right now for e cigarettes.

**IV. State Soil Conservation Board Business**

**a. SSCB Chairman's Report-Scott Ham**

Mr. Ham presented a recommendation from the committee of himself, Mr. Eddleman and Ms. Gentry, on the resolution for the \$10,000 match. This board can only do case by case fixes. It does not have the authority to change code. The SSCB cannot move forward with changing code or guidance.

Mr. Baird moved that the resolution go back to the IASWCD. Mr. Woodling seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

Jordan- If IASWCD chooses to move forward with the resolution, ISDA will remain neutral.

Mr. Clemens asked if IASWCD has given any indication that there are other things they want to look at while code is open.

Jordan indicated that ISDA is looking to make two changes to code in the next session. There is still one place in code where it refers to DNR instead of ISDA. Related to the \$10,000 match, Jordan stated that currently we can only match \$10,000 per district if two or more districts merge. If two districts merge, we are proposing that they would get \$20,000 instead of \$10,000 to match the number of original districts.

Scheryl Vaughn asked if it is still \$10,000 per new district or current district.

Jordan stated that it is just removing a barrier.

Ms. Gentry stated that it follows the SSCB business plan and gets district more money for merging.

Jordan said the issue came up in the Conservation Beyond 2016 Task Force.

Cress Hizer said the changes are technical corrections. ISDA has already lined up a sponsor. We may be able to amend things since it is already there. In reference to the township trustees resolution, townships that have big reserves could be helpful.

**b. SSCB Business Plan**

Draft business plan will be addressed during the January meeting at Annual Conference. This meeting will include heavy discussion and approval. Currently, the SSCB is seeking feedback from districts and thanks them for feedback already submitted.

Ms. Gentry moved that the color coded draft business plan go on the SSCB website. Mr. Woodling seconded the motion.

Mr. Eddleman wanted a second round of district comments. Jordan said the DSS team will follow up with SWCDs.

All in favor. Motion passed.

**c. 2016 Meeting Dates**

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 4:30-6:00 pm at IASWCD Annual Conference

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 3:30 pm Roundtable at Annual Conference

Mr. Clemens will not be at Annual Conference

**V. Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**a. Vanderburgh County-Laura Fribley**

Ms. Gentry moved to approve Kevin Rexing in Vanderburgh SWCD. Mr. Clemens seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

**b. Elkhart County- Laura Fribley**

Ms. Gentry moved to approve Dean Rink in Elkhart SWCD. Mr. Baird seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

**VI. 10 Minute Break**

**VII. ISDA Updates**

**a. Director's Report- Jordan Seger**

WLEB: The Western Lake Erie Basin is a key priority area. It ramped up last summer because of Toledo. Since then Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan have been working together to address phosphorus. The issue has been getting lots of attention from the EPA and lake residents. Indiana has the smallest watershed in the Basin. ISDA is working with IDEM, The Nature Conservancy, and the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's offices. ISDA strategies include additional staffing and increase water monitoring, especially at state borders. We are currently looking at funding. The current best science is a 40 percent reduction in phosphorus will be the best shot to clean up the lake, but we have not put a timeline on it. We need more conservation in the right spots. Please see our WLEB website.

Mr. Eddleman asked if the way water comes in from Huron, is it not getting to Erie?

Mr. Clemens stated there is a lot of water flow through Lake Erie. Wind action has a lot to do with it. The lake level can tilt.

Jordan went out on the lake and it was very interesting. At this time our efforts in working with the Amish can be challenging.

Mr. Clemens is curious to know how monitoring at state line will work. What is our load as a state?

Jordan also stated that we need to get the figure of what is coming in from Ohio on the Maumee. We want to be able to say this is our contribution, here are the trends. We can only control up to state borders.

Ms. Gentry inquired as to what the blooms like this past year.

Mr. Clemens said it was a bad year for blooms this is, but no bad blooms were over an intake this year.

Mr. Ham stated that blooms were not necessarily the worst this year.

Staffing: ISDA is interviewing for a resource specialist position in the Northwest and also looking for a resource specialist in the Northeast for an EPA grant.

Avian Influenza: ISDA and NRCS are not really visiting poultry farms. We should meet producers in a neutral location. The virus appears to spread during migration. BOAH is leading this effort.

WOTUS: Court put a nationwide stay on the rule. It needs more work before it can take effect.

Jordan offered his congratulations to SWCDs selected for the District Showcase Awards.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy: ISDA has lots of information on its website. We are drilling down to significant water bodies i.e. White River, Patoka Lake.

Fall Cover Crop Transect: The numbers for the 2015 spring transect are on the website. From 2011-2014, we saw a 400% increase in cover crop use statewide.

Spencer SWCD employee Dave King asked about what is considered a poultry farm. A poultry farm is the site where birds are. Manure is not spread unless it is clean. We are not going to sites that have birds.

**b. Technical Report- Jim Woody**

Three Southwest field staff are in attendance: Don, Linda, and Andrea. The southwest staff have attended a lot of meetings and completed a variety of construction work. The handout is a summary of SharePoint entries with load reduction information.

Jordan stated that all of these numbers go to OMB for ISDA goals. OMD automatically pulls data from our SharePoint site. ISDA is one of the first state agencies to have automated reporting.

Mr. Ham asked if we are meeting our goals.

Jordan said the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter is where it happens.

Jim showed pie charts which show the workload for the Greencastle and Princeton Conservation Delivery Teams. The charts are pretty similar. There is still work to do.

**c. Agricultural Affairs-Meg Leader**

INField Advantage has finished sampling for the year. It is probably the earliest completion of sampling in the program's history. Meg will be hosting a training on November 30<sup>th</sup> for people involved with INField Advantage. Corn and Soy will be hosting lunch that day. Dr. Pearson from SIU will be presenting about imagery and Dr. Neilson of Purdue will talk about this year's growing season and how it applies to next year. Hans and Meg will be speaking at the Midwest Pork Conference to INFA producers that apply swine manure. These producers will have early access to their results from this year. Meg hopes to get the discussion going among this group. INFA is looking at creating a similar group for producers applying poultry litter. Montgomery and Scott Counties will have new groups in 2016. Some old groups are also being reactivated. Meg stated she needs final numbers from Corn and Soy before she sets numbers for next year.

Mr. Ham asked if people are using INFA rather than OnFarm Network? Meg said it still goes back and forth on the local level. It may be a little struggle for producers that do not see the name on a day to day basis.

Mr. Clemens would like to see some data and how it is helping producers at at winter SSCB meeting.

Mr. Clemens asked about the status of the position that the SSCB approved for CCSI. Lisa said CCSI is still waiting on formal agreements from NRCS. Job descriptions have been expanded

based upon practical farmers from Iowa. Jordan said a contract template is in place. ISDA is waiting on a scope of work and budget. The agreement is ready to go when we get those pieces.

**d. Accountability and Technology-Deb Fairhurst**

Jordan presented Deb's report.

Spring transect information is on the website. Statewide it shows almost a million acres of cover crops. Transects also showed over 14 million gallons of diesel fuel saved and 32 million tons of soil saved. ISDA is working with a satellite imagery group to see if in the future we can use remote sensing for this data.

DSS team will get fall transect spreadsheets out.

ICP will have a staff get together on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Save the dates are coming soon.

**e. District Support-Laura Fribley**

Laura stated that the DSS team can provide feedback on CWI applications, both funded and unfunded. Leah is uploading videos for SWCDs including the August Supervisor Summit and CWI videos. CWI Audits how-to video is coming soon. The DSS team is hosting a grants workshop tomorrow in Jackson County. Bob will present. The focus of this workshop will be encouraging districts to think ahead and how to better prepare for grant opportunities.

**f. Water Quality and CREP-Julie Harrold**

Jordan presented Julie's report.

Jordan explained the tables on the handout. CREP is working on federal dollar share. Since CREP started, \$2.88 million in state funds and 4 to 7 times that amount in federal funds have been utilized. These figures will be posted online later.

Mr. Clemens asked if any thought has been given to adding the WLEB to CREP.

Jordan said there has been some discussion, but it has not gotten to the point of putting together an amendment. CREP has typically targeted the Mississippi River Basin. We will give it some thought moving forward.

Mr. Clemens stated that the practices may be different.

Jordan said there are some changes to CREP including the easing of some requirements for wetlands and filter strips.

Jordan, Ted, and Julie are going to Washington, D.C. on Monday for the Hypoxia Task Force.

Jordan is please to hear from the Hypoxia Task Force that Indiana is ahead of the game. Iowa may be slightly ahead of us but they have \$9 million for this. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy is on the website.

## **VIII. Conservation Partner Reports**

**a. IASWCD Report- Lisa Holscher**

Jennifer is working on contribution agreements, which will be just under \$500,000. They hope to get it done pretty quickly. CCSI did not get awarded a new CIG grant. The program has applied for a SARE grant. There are a lot of option for sampling money right now. The CCSI annual meeting is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, probably in Noblesville. Pathway to Water Quality has signed a 319 grant. Instead of region meetings, IASWCD will be hosting a statewide teleconference on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Annual conference registration is now open. The 2 day conference will be January 14-15. The SSCB meeting will kick off the conference.

Mr. Clemens asked what the need was on soil health measurements. Lisa said they have money from Corn and soy year by year, but it is probably short 7 to 9 sites. CCSI is working on other funding sources, potentially through NRCS.

Mr. Clemens stated that we can't afford to miss a year of this. There is a need and people across the nation recognize it.

Leah will complete registration for the SSCB for Annual Conference.

**b. IDEM Report- No Report**

**c. DNR Report – No Report**

**d. Purdue Report- Walt Sell**

Gary Steinhart sends his regards. The state soils contest was a success. Thank you to partners. Walt stated that the Indiana soils contest has a conservation focus that is not seen in others states. Ten teams will go to Oklahoma for nationals. Applications are being accepted for the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy. Applications are due November 6<sup>th</sup>. In early 2015, Purdue did community forums to find out what the public thinks Extension should be focusing on. Soil health and conservation made the list. At conference, the bulk of discussion surrounded these issues. Proposals and metrics are coming soon.

**e. FSA Report- No Report**

**f. NRCS Report- Dan Hovland**

Three CIGs awarded affect Indiana. 4 new RCPP proposals are in Indiana, 2 in the southwest. One of these proposals is partnering with The Nature Conservancy and focuses on wetland areas. The other includes 11 counties and focuses on soil health on reclamation ground. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget remains level. All staff vacancies have funding to be filled. NRCS is looking forward to district showcases. The NRCS national leadership team will be in Indianapolis the first week of November. The state technical committee will meet on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ham asked how the Water Quality Trading project is going. Everything is there for trades but it has never been utilized. Partners are looking to what is next, expand on area and to get more credits set aside.

Jordan stated that there was an auction set for these credits in New York but it was postponed. This goes to the EPA to agree that credits can offset permits. The agreement came later than anticipated. The new CIG grant allows for forestry related practices in the southeast, such as timber stand improvement and tree planting. It has more of a greenhouse gas focus rather than solely nutrients. Among Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, Indiana got stuff done.

Mr. Woodling asked if they were folding in NCCX. Jordan said that was gone. We are learning from it but it is not incorporated.

Mr. Clemens stated that California has a trading program which allows for buying credits from out of state. USDA and EPA are very interested in environmental marketplace. More companies are looking into corporate stewardship and offsets.

**g. IDEA Report-Scheryl Vaughn**

The conference in Evansville was great. It was the largest ever with 90 attendees. There were a lot of networking opportunities. The 2016 conference will be in the North Northeast and 2017 will be in the South Northwest. Erica is the incoming president, Rose vice-president, Cindy treasurer, and Julie secretary. 4 regions have new directors. IDEA will have an internal audit on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will also have a meeting at Annual Conference on Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 and will give updates on what is happening for 2016. Open enrollment for IDEA starts in January. They are collecting auction items for Annual Conference. Proceeds will go to the poster contest for Envirothon.

Jordan asked if IDEA did any marketing to get more people to conference. Erica said IDEA really took into consideration what staff were looking for and really listened to staff ideas. Erica also thanked the SSCB for funds for speakers. These funds paid a majority of the speakers' fees. The entire conference was paid for by sponsorships and registrations.

Mr. Ham stated that there was a lot of discussion about giving funds to IDEA, but this conference really shows that funding IDEA really helps districts. He looks forward to working with them in the future.

**VIII. Public Comment**

Judi Brown requested RSVPs for District Showcase presentation on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**X. Next Meeting:**

**2016 Meeting Dates**

January 13, IASWCD Annual Conference  
4:30-6:00 pm

**XI. Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

DRAFT